

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Copies of the cited U.S. patent application (specification, claims, and the drawings), including any claims directed to that portion are not attached hereto, as the disclosure is identical to the disclosure of the present application.

The above-listed co-pending application is not to be construed as prior art. By bringing the above-listed application to the attention of the Examiner, Applicants do NOT waive any confidentiality concerning the above-listed co-pending application(s) or this application. See MPEP § 101. Furthermore, if said application(s) should not mature into patents, such application(s) should be preserved in secrecy under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.14.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to CBLH Deposit Account No. 02-0185 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,



Larry J. Hume, Reg. No. 44,163  
Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP  
1990 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036-3425  
Telephone: 202-331-7111